#### **GISBORNE PRESBYTERIAN PARISH**

#### *Matawhero Church – Church Lane*

#### *St Andrew’s Church and Community Centre:*

#### *176 Cobden Street, Gisborne*

#### ***31 August 2025 Pentecost 12***

#### ***Welcome to Sr Cynthia Kearney***

***We welcome all visitors to our service this morning.***

***Please sign the Visitors’ Book and make yourself known to the Hosts who stand at the back of the church. A toilet is located in the foyer.***

***In our worship we use inclusive language as much as possible. Sometimes, especially in the hymns, this is not possible. Feel free to insert the language with which you are most comfortable. BOLDED WORDS are for congregational response. Where there is an asterisk \* you are invited to stand.***

**Welcome, news and Notices**

**Video from Presbytery on Maori Wards.**

**Silent Preparation**

**Introit and entry of Bible** We are many we are one FFS 67

Call to Worship: Psalm 67

The Beloved is gracious to us,

a loving Presence within us;

**The radiant One shines in us.**

O that Love’s Way would be lived through out

the world.

Love’s abiding power embraced by all the Nations

**May the people ever rejoice in You singing songs of appreciation**

**for all that You have freely given to us.**

Let the Nations listen and heed;

**We are all called to live with integrity and justice**

Abandoning ourselves into the Heart of Love,

**We need not worry or fret; for Love’s grace abides wherever we are.**

**In love let us make our home.**

Prayer

**God, may I receive the gift of this day without judgement or prejudice**

**May my vision be clear enough to see beauty in everything.**

**May I greet each moment in its uniqueness and say thank you for the opportunity to learn. And God may I not forget to give the child in me the space to sing and dance with all the little miracles that announce your presence.**

**Hymn Give Thanks with a grateful heart CH4 80**

**Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One;  
give thanks, because he’s given Jesus Christ, his Son. (Repeat)**

**And now let the weak say ‘I am strong’,  
let the poor say ‘I am rich’,  
because of what the Lord has done for us; (Repeat)  
  
Give thanks…**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God as we reflect on our lives we ask forgiveness

for the choices we have made that have not brought us the fullness of life that you wanted for us.

For the times we gave into the fear of invisibility, of uselessness, of losing our identity

For the times we have seen closing as loss, as a curse

instead of your gift to us.

God thank you for forgiving us and with the help of you Spirit enable us to keep seeing all life as gift.

Hymn; Now thank we all our God  *Nun Danket* CH4 182

1. **Now thank we all our God,**

**with heart and hands and voices,**

**who wondrous things has done,**

**in whom this world rejoices, -**

**who, from our mothers’ arms,**

**has blessed us on our way**

**with countless gifts of love,**

**and still is ours today.**

1. **May you, O bounteous God**

**through all our life be near us,**

**with ever-joyful hearts**

**and blessed peace to cheer us,**

**and keep us in your grace,**

**and guide us when perplexed,**

**and free us from all ills**

**in this world and the next.**

1. **All praise and thanks to God**

**our Maker now be given,**

**to Christ, and Spirit too,**

**our help in highest heaven, -**

**the one, eternal God,**

**whom earth and heaven adore,**

**for thus it was, is now,**

**and shall be evermore.**

First Reading; Ecclesiasticus 3:19-21 30-31

Behave humbly, and you will find favour with the Lord  
  
My child, be gentle in carrying out your business,  
and you will be better loved than a lavish giver.  
The greater you are, the more you should behave humbly,  
and then you will find favour with the Lord;  
for great though the power of the Lord is,  
he accepts the homage of the humble.  
There is no cure for the proud person’s malady,  
since an evil growth has taken root in him.  
The heart of a sensible person will reflect on parables,  
an attentive ear is the sage’s dream.

Response: Take my yoke upon you; learn from me for I am gentle and humble in heart. Alleluia (Matthew 11;29)

Gospel; Luke 14;1,7-14

One Sabbath, when Jesus went to eat in the house of a prominent Pharisee, he was being carefully watched.

7When he noticed how the guests picked the places of honour at the table, he told them this parable: 8“When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honour, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. 9If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, ‘Give this person your seat.’ Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place. 10But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, ‘Friend, move up to a better place.’ Then you will be honoured in the presence of all the other guests. 11For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

12Then Jesus said to his host, “When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbours; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. 13But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, 14and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

Reflection. Humility

Silence

THE GIFT OF IMPERFECTION

God I thank You for the shadow that contains the seeds of light

I thank You for the doubt that makes me discard

ideas too tight for me

I thank You for the mistakes

That showed me humility means being human,

and for the blunders that made me value the precious gift of laughter.

Above all I thank you for my growing space

and my dependency on your love.

**Prayers of the people.**

Loving God we pray for the wisdom of attentiveness so that we can be awake to the many ways that we can show kindness to others. We pray for the wisdom of imagination so that we can discover solutions to our problems, so that we can see beauty even in places where it seems absent.

We pray for the wisdom of humility; may we know how small we are in your intelligent universe, may we be eager to always learn more. We ask for a sense of humour so that we can enjoy the comedy of our errors.

We pray that our leaders will be motivated by compassion and genuine curiosity rather than fear and predetermined ideology. We pray we will all act on the wisdom of solidarity knowing that we have more in common than the few things that keep us apart.

We pray that we will allow your creative and reconciling energy flow through us as we take time to listen to you. Amen

**Presentation of offerings**

**Doxology** Take my gifts and let me love you AA 127

**1. Take my gifts and let me love you,**

**God who first of all loved me,**

**gave me light and food and shelter,**

**gave me life and set me free,**

**now because your love has touched me,**

**I have love to give away**

**now the bread of love is rising,**

**loaves of love to multiply!**

**2. Take the fruit that I have gathered**

**from the tree your Spirit sowed,**

**harvest of your own compassion,**

**juice that makes the wine of God,**

**spiced with humour, laced with laughter -**

**flavour of the Jesus life,**

**tang of risk and new adventure,**

**taste and zest beyond belief.**

**3. Take whatever I can offer -**

**gifts that I have yet to find,**

**skills that I am slow to sharpen,**

**talents of the hand and mind,**

**things made beautiful for others**

**in the place where I must be:**

**take my gifts and let me love you,**

**God who first of all loved me.**

***Shirley Murray, Colin Gibson***

**Dedication**

**Accept the gifts we offer with love and gratitude**

**What is our treasure but your Love**

**There is nothing on earth that we desire beside You.**

**Our bodies and mines may fail But You are the strength of our hearts and our joy forever.**

**THE LORDS PRAYER**  (Based on the original Aramaic.)

**O Cosmic Birther of all radiance and vibration!**

**Soften the ground of our being**

**And carve out a space within where your presence and abide.**

**Fill us with your creativity so that we may be empowered to bear the fruit of your mission.**

**Let each of our actions bear fruit in accordance with your desire.**

**Endow us with the wisdom to produce and share what each being needs to grow and flourish.**

**Untie the tangled threads of destiny that bind us,**

**As we release others from the entanglement of past mistakes.**

**Do not let us be seduced by that, which would divert us from our true purpose,**

**But illuminate the opportunities of the present moment.**

**For you are the ground and fruitful vision,**

**The birth, power and fulfilment,**

**All is gathered and made whole again.**

**Amen**

**Magnificat** Joy Cowley

**My soul sings in gratitude: I'm dancing in the Mystery of God.**

**The light of The Holy One is within me**

**And I am blessed, so truly blessed.**

**This goes deeper than human thinking.**

**I am filled with awe at Love**

**Whose only condition is to be received.**

**The gift is not for the proud,**

**For they have no room for it.**

**The strong and self sufficient ones**

**Don't have this awareness.**

**But those who know their emptiness**

**Can rejoice in Love's fullness**

**It's the love we are made for, The reason for our being.**

***It fills our inmost Heart space And brings to birth in us,***

***The Holy One.***

## Hymn: Make me a channel of your peace (© CH4 #528)

**Make me a channel of your peace.**

**Where there is hatred let me bring your love;**

**where there is injury, your pardon, Lord;**

**and where there's doubt, true faith in you.**

**Make me a channel of your peace.**

**Where there's despair in life let me bring hope;**

**where there is darkness, only light;**

**and where there's sadness, ever joy**

**Oh, master, grant that I may never seek**

**so much to be consoled as to console;**

**to be understood as to understand;**

**to be loved, as to love with all my soul.**

**Make me a channel of your peace.**

**It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,**

**in giving to all that we receive;**

**and in dying that we're born to eternal life**

**Blessing**

May the peace of God fill your whole being

May you be content with who you are

May God bless you with hope and others through you. Amen

**Ministers*:*** *All the people in Christ* **Leader*: Sr Cynthia Kearney***

**Reader:** *Jennifer McDonald*

*Please join us for friendship and fellowship and a cup of tea or coffee in the lounge after the service*

**Note:** The offering is now received at the door as we enter. If you miss noticing this, you may place a retiring offering in the offering boxes at the door as you leave.

**Please remember** donations for the Love basket when shopping. All offerings gratefully received.

For all Pastoral care needs please contact one of the committee members:

Jenny Lawton 868 4268; Ruth McLennan 021 02704867; Jan Gordon 0211836008; Lynnor Cooke 06 214 3945; Barbara Larsen 863-9009

*Christian Blind Mission accepts used stamps. Send directly to them or Val Hall.*

Matawhero Gardening happens from time to time. If you would like to help, please contact Paulina Melief 867 0605

**Mindful Prayer topics:** **August 24th & 31st 2025** Conflict and its victims. Health & uncertainty, the frightened. The dissolution of GPP and the road we must now travel “In the Spirit let us travel open to each other’s pain”. Shirley Murray FSS10

Mindful Prayer contact Margaret Graham ph. 021 026 03990 or email [m.n.e.gra@xtra.co.nz](mailto:m.n.e.gra@xtra.co.nz)

**DIARY for this week in August and September**

**SUNDAY 31** **PENTECOST 12**

**10.00am St. Andrew’s**

**Matawhero No service**

**Monday September 1** Creation Day [Season of Creation 2025 theme:

*Wisdom in Creation*.]

Tuesday 2 10.00am Open Door

Wednesday 39.45am mainly music

Friday 5 1.00pm Choir rehearsal tbc

**SUNDAY 7** **PENTECOST 13 Rev Peter McKenzie**

(First Sunday in Creation: Ocean Sunday)

10.00am **St. Andrew’s– Communion**

Followed by congregational meeting

**Matawhero – No service**

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| Sunday | Reader | Door & Team | Morning Tea | Sound Visual |
| 12 January  Epiphany 1  Sr Cynthia Kearney | **Matawhero**  No service  **St Andrew’s**  Alvin Hall | **Seton Clare**  Dianne Burrows | Lyn Griffiths | S&V: Don  C:Don |
| **Sunday 31 August**  **Sr. Cynthia** | M:No service  St A’s: Jennifer McDonald | **Pat Flockhart**  Chrissie Parker | Jenny Lawton | S&V: Linda  C: Don |
| **Sunday 7 September**  **Communion**  **St A’s Rev Peter McKenzie** | M:No service  St A’s: Alvin Hall | **Jenny Lawton**  Linda Savage | Lyn  Griffiths | S&V: Don  C: Don |

Communion elders for 7 September: **Rev Peter McKenzie** celebrant; **Seton Clare, Chrissie Parker** Jan Gordon, Pat Flockhart

***Gisborne Presbyterian Parish***

***St Andrew’s Church and Matawhero Historic Church:***

***Office: 06 868 5513******Hours 10-12 Tuesday – Thursday***

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